

FACT SHEET



Former Frith Battery Dump Site Sageville, Iowa

August 2000

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will begin removing contaminated soil from the Former Frith Battery Dump site, 11399 Route 52 North, Sageville, Iowa, just outside the city of Dubuque. Site activities are scheduled to begin the week of September 4, 2000. A residence and a pond are located near the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

In April 1999, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducted an initial site investigation of the former battery dump site after receiving a complaint. The investigation revealed an area, approximately one-acre in size, lacking vegetation and covered with battery cores. Apparently, batteries were transported to the site for some type of recovery process and discarded. IDNR referred the site to EPA for further investigation.

Soil, sediment and ground water samples were taken in 1999. High levels of lead, zinc, manganese and arsenic, metals commonly associated with battery salvaging wastes, were found in the soil near the pond and in sediment from the pond. The pond has been determined by IDNR to be a wetland and serves as an attraction to migratory birds and animals. The fish in the pond are bottom dwellers and feed off material in the pond sediment which is contaminated. Fishing in the pond has been stopped until further notice. No contaminants were found in the ground water at concentrations that are above levels of concern.

EPA has determined that the contaminants at this site pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. People may be exposed to site contaminants by inhaling airborne dust particles or through ingestion. Direct exposure to the contaminants can cause numerous health-related problems.

REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Contaminated soil at the site will be excavated and stockpiled onsite. The stockpiled soil will be sampled, treated if necessary, and disposed of at an appropriate disposal facility. Approximately 5,500 cubic yards of soil will be excavated. Excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil and revegetated. The work at the site is expected to be completed by the end of October 2000.

EPA is conducting the removal activities at the Former Frith Battery Dump site under the Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns about health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates, and cleans up hazardous waste sites. The estimated \$970,000 to conduct this removal will come from Superfund, however, EPA will attempt to identify potentially responsible parties who may be liable and seek reimbursement from them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A file containing documents about the site, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review at the following location:

Carnegie-Stout Public Library
360 W. 11th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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